

TRIBUTE TO JAIME FABEY, ELIZABETH TOPHAM, SALIL GABALE AND BRIAN BECK ON THEIR OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE IN ASSISTING THE HURRICANE VICTIMS ALONG THE GULF COAST

### HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 26, 2006*

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, it is a tremendous honor and privilege for me to rise to honor four young members of the AmeriCorps Program for their heroic assistance to the individuals devastated by hurricanes along the Gulf Coast. The National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) program, under AmeriCorps, is a full-time, teamwork-encouraging, non-profit organization comprised of individuals ages 18–24 who strive to serve the community at large, wherever assistance is needed. These four individuals, who so patriotically aided the residents of the Gulf Coast area, reside in the 7th Congressional District of Pennsylvania.

AmeriCorps was founded in 1994, through the enactment of the National Community Service Trust Act. Members of the NCCC are required to serve for a minimum of ten months at a time, and are Red Cross-trained and certified in CPR, first-aid, and mass care. More than 1,600 NCCC members have extended their relief efforts to residents of the Gulf Coast region since September 2005, and have amassed approximately 600,000 hours of service—a truly commendable effort.

Jaime Fabey, an NCCC Team Leader, led a group of ten Corps members on two disaster relief mission-projects along the Gulf Coast. In partnership with the First Baptist Church of New Orleans, Jaime and her team, for two months helped save 16 homes as well as the personal items of many families whose homes were unsalvageable. Elizabeth Topham and her teammates spent their first assignment helping with the construction of the Salvation Army's largest outreach center in New Orleans, which aided more than 12,000 local residents. Salil Gabale and teammates worked to repair a warehouse that belonged to a non-profit organization named the Green Project, located in Covington, LA. Brian Beck offered his support through carrying out damage assessments and recruiting for volunteers. Brian and his team are currently building houses for hurricane disaster victims in Slidell, Louisiana.

As the Vice-Chairman of the Homeland Security Committee, I have seen first-hand the positive effects of the NCCC. These four young members have no doubt played a large role in upholding the excellent reputation of this organization.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have within my district four remarkably heroic and brave members of the NCCC. Our Nation owes Jaime Fabey, Elizabeth Topham, Salil Gabale and Brian Beck and the rest of the NCCC volunteers our most sincere gratitude for their services. We are most certainly a safer country because of their outstanding efforts. Again, I have the great privilege of representing these special individuals and honoring them for their selfless service to those who needed it the most during a time of national crisis.

HONORING BROOKSIDE ENGINE COMPANY NO. 1

### HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 26, 2006*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Brookside Engine Company No. 1 in the Mendham Township Fire Department and the Mendham Township Police Department, in the Township of Mendham, New Jersey, a patriotic community that I am proud to represent. On July 4, 2006, the good citizens of Mendham Township will celebrate two historic occasions with a special festivities and a parade: the 90th anniversary of Brookside Engine Company No. 1, and the 50th anniversary of the Mendham Township Police Department.

Brookside Engine Company No. 1 was founded on January 16, 1916, with 20 devoted charter members. During the ensuing 90 years, Brookside Engine Company No. 1, composed entirely of volunteers, has been dutifully serving the community and surrounding towns.

Today, Brookside Engine Company No. 1 is led by Fire Chief Sam Tolley, who presides over a membership of 45 regular volunteers and a junior division of more than 12 members between 16 and 18 years of age.

The Mendham Township Police Department was officially established on March 12, 1956. During its 50 years of existence, the department has employed a total of seven chiefs, a testament to its sterling reputation.

In 1994, Thomas J. Costanza was promoted to chief, a position he holds today. To support him, the department has 15 full-time officers. These courageous police officers continue to serve their community with integrity and honor, providing safety and protection to the residents of Mendham Township.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the volunteers of Brookside Engine Company No. 1 on 90 years of rich history, and the officers of the Mendham Township Police Department for 50 years of commendable service.

RECOGNIZING AN ARTICLE BY RABBI ISRAEL ZOBERMAN, SPIRITUAL LEADER OF CONGREGATION BETH CHAVERIM IN VIRGINIA BEACH, VA

### HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 26, 2006*

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce an article written by Rabbi Israel Zoberman, spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach, VA. The article by Rabbi Zoberman reads as follows:

Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's successful first official visit recently to the United States was an expected formality between the leaders of two close and long-standing allies. It was also an essential opportunity for the Israeli Prime Minister to extend the intimate bond between his predecessor Ariel Sharon and President Bush, which Sharon learned to carefully cultivate, to his own budding relationship with a mighty and necessary friend.

Olmert, a skilled politician who has been moving away from a somewhat abrasive demeanor, did find the right words of gratitude, deference and shared sentiment. In his granted appearance as a special guest before a joint session of Congress, he received no less than 17 standing ovations reflecting America's genuine sympathy for the Jewish state which transcends those who happen to be in power on either side at a given time.

In fact, the vital alliance born of common values and interest between the senior and junior partners, has assumed a heightened relevancy following 9/11 with the complex war on terrorism and the costly thrust to bring democracy's freedoms to the Middle East and beyond. Who more than the ever beleaguered State of Israel has experienced what terrorizing onslaught on innocent civilians and a cherished way of life is all about?

The President gave his approving nod to the Prime Minister's unilateral plan of the "realignment" (the latest term) of Israel's future borders in the absence of a peace partner. The Palestinian Hamas-led government even rejects Israel's right to exist and is locked in a deadly struggle of a civil war nature with Fatah over running the Palestinian Authority. When will the Palestinians stop the tragic cycle of never missing an opportunity to miss an opportunity? Olmert voiced support for the seemingly moribund Road Map which Bush welcomed, as the President reiterated his embrace of Israel's determination to hold onto its large settlement blocks on the West Bank while relinquishing control over sparsely populated territory to allow for the creation of a Palestinian state.

The Prime Minister, a former Mayor of challenge-laden Jerusalem, is yet to be tested in Israel's hot political crucible in his country's top position. It is doubtless that he was given an extraordinary historic opportunity to affect Israel's destiny and fully implement the vision of Sharon who was so suddenly incapacitated at the height of his popularity and on the threshold of fateful decisions having accomplished the controversial Gaza disengagement. But likely the highlight of Olmert's visit to the capital of the world's only remaining superpower was the stern warning he poignantly delivered concerning the impending threat from Iran, and his revelation that the terror sponsoring radical Muslim regime ghoulishly calling for Israel's elimination while denying the Holocaust is almost within reach, closer than anticipated of developing a nuclear capability.

One wonders if the Prime Minister personally presented the priceless gift of supporting intelligence reports, thus nailing the unavoidable response that the United States and the West are saddled with at this very hour. The risks of hesitant inaction though far outweighs those of resolute action, sending a powerful message that tyrannical blackmail is unacceptable and that the resolve of free nations to prevail is unshakeable. An ambiguous response invites further aggression with rising costs. Iran's mullahs' genocidal design on Israel, with Europe as a potential target as well while seeking hegemony in a critical region, ought to alarm us enough. What should however be clear is that Israel's only option is to survive, it simply can not afford to absorb a first nuclear strike. Have we not internalized by now History's painful lessons, are we doomed to forever repeat the past? I pray not.

Rabbi Israel Zoberman, spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach, was born to Polish Holocaust survivors in Chu, Kazakhstan, in 1945 and raised in Haifa, Israel.